

From: Nathan Medbery
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:45am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I am writing to voice my concern over what I consider a weak final judgment in the government case against Microsoft. Your own findings show that Microsoft has indeed acted as a monopoly in many cases, and has acted improperly in further dealings with many companies and technologies in the market. They have squashed entire companies and technologies (some by perfectly legal and acceptable means, others by unfair/monopolistic advantages), and used their legal clout to block further development of various products, even when they had little or not legal ground to stand on. Because they have deep pockets and can fund as many legal proceedings as necessary (indefinitely I might add), they can indirectly ruin smaller companies that do not have the funding to defend themselves, regardless of who is right or wrong.

Your proposal is nothing more than a mild slap on the wrist, and a forced re-posturing of their products as they come to market (especially via OEM distribution outlets). What is to stop Microsoft from continuing its bullying of companies and of the market in general? There is nothing in your proposal that punishes them for what they have already done, other than making them change how they go about some things. Well, not to the extent that I believe they should be punished at least. And what about Microsoft's habit of bringing more and more technology into their products (especially their Windows Operating System) that would normally (and should) be left to other parties to produce? If nothing else, they should have to distribute certain technologies separately from their OS, even if it's free. You found that they unfairly distributed their web browser. The same is happening in many other cases, and will not be hindered by your judgment.

All in all, I just don't believe you are truly punishing Microsoft enough for their blatant use of monopolistic power, nor do I believe you proposed limitations would change how Microsoft behaves in the end. That is simply my opinion.

-Nathan Medbery

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